Kaziranga National Park

460. SHRI UDDHAB BARMAN : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news regarding foreign donations for Kaziranga National Park amounting to Rs. 3.82 lakh to be used for the betterment of living conditions of captured elephants and some forests guards but misused by forest officials;

(b) if so, whether the Government have tried to unearth the truth of the whole thing;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the remedial measures proposed to be taken in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ) : (a) Yes, Sir. However, the Chief Wildlife Warden of Assam has informed that foreign donation for Kaziranga National Park was not misused as alleged. The donation was received in two instalments and the first instalment of Rs. 1.75 lakhs was utilized for elephant feed, payment of outstanding dues for P.O.L. for antipoaching vehicles and purchase of tyres and tubes for truck used in anti-poaching work. The second instalment of Rs. 2.80 lakhs is being utilized for purpose of boots, jersey etc. for the staff.

(b) to (d) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Foreign Tours by KRIBHCO officials

461. SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) the total expenditure incurred by the KRIBHCO officials on the foreign tours under the India-Oman project;

(b) whether this tour was absolutely; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SIS RAM OLA) : (a) to (c) In connection with the Oman India Fertilizer Project, KRIBHCO has incurred an expenditure of Rs. 3.52 crore approximately on foreign tours of its officials from March 1993 to December 1996. These foreign tours were essential because of the need for intensive interaction with the joint venture partners, techinical consultants, financial advisers and project contractors, who are all located outside India. The meetings of the Joint Management Committee of the project are also generally held outside India.

Closed Sugar Mills

462. SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY : Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state :

(a) whether the sugar mills in large number are lying closed in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, the loss of production capacity as a result of closure of these sugar mills;

(c) whether the Government have taken action to revive these sugar mills; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) (a) As on 18.2.1997 during the current sugar season 1996-97, there were three sugar mills lying closed in Uttar Pradesh viz. Anandnagar, Gauribazar and Nandganj.

(b) The loss in terms of annual installed sugar production capacity, as a result of closure of these sugar mills is 0.43 lakh tonnes.

(c) and (d) Sugar Mills have themselves to prepare schemes for rehabilitation/modernisation and get them approved by the financial institutions. Financial assistance is also available from the Sugar Development Fund (SDF) at concessional rates of interest for such rehabilitation/ modernisation schemes, subject to fulfilment of the condition laid down.

[English]

Pollution in Ganga

463. SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that in spite of all their efforts and extensive publicity through the mass-media and other extension methods the dead bodies, half burnt bodies are still floating in the river (Ganga), small unrecorded industrial units of Kanpur dumping their wastes in the river and city's dirty nallas diverted into it; and

(b) if so, the efforts proposed to be made to keep Ganga completely safe from pollution ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ) : (a) and (b) To minimise the incidents of disposal of dead/half burnt bodies into the Ganga, 28 schemes of electric crematorium have been sanctioned in 25 large towns along the river in U.P., Bihar and West Bengal. However, most of these crematoria have not been fully utilised due to the non-availability of uninterruped power supply. The concerned State Governments have been told from time to time to ensure uninterrupted power supply to these crematoria. Industrial effluents from a cluster of 175 small tanneries at Jajmau, Kanpur are treated in a common effluent treatment plant before it is sent for irrigation. Nearly 130 million liters per day of municipal sewage is intercepted and diverted from 16 drains for sewage farming at Kanpur. The remaining sewage presently reaching the Ganga from one of the major drains